

Remarks

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14 - 16, 18, 19, and 22 have been amended. All the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification as originally filed. No claims have been cancelled; claims 1 - 22 are presently pending.

All the amendments made herein have been made pursuant to the Examiner's restriction of the claims to a particular scope. Thus, these amendments reflect an election of certain subject matter by the Applicants. As a result, prosecution of any of the subject matter deleted herein may properly be pursued in a divisional application. Applicants reserve the right to do so.

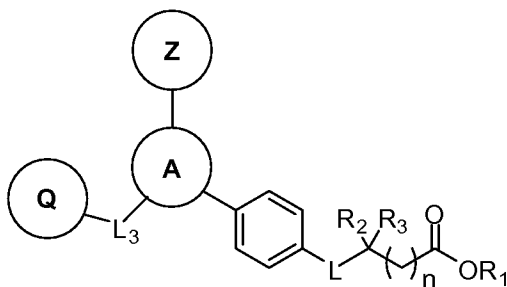
Should the Examiner believe that the claims as amended herein still include subject matter that is within a non-elected invention and Applicants remove such subject matter in a subsequent reply, that subject matter may also be properly pursued in a divisional application.

Claim Amendments

Applicants note that according to MPEP 803.02, that "it is improper for the Office to refuse to examine that which Applicants regard as their invention, unless the subject matter in a claim lacks unity of invention." *In re Harnisch*, 631 F.2d 716.

Nevertheless, in an effort to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims. The claims encompass compounds that have both a common utility and share a substantial structural features essential to that utility. Those structural features are consistent with the Applicants' election and the search carried out by the Office.

As stated throughout the Specification, the claimed compounds exhibit a common activity: they are inhibitors of PTPase. Further, the amended Markush claim 1, and thereby each of the dependent claims, has unity of invention as all the claimed compounds share a common core as follows:



where A is a heteroaryl group directly bonded to at least two substituents containing cyclic moieties, *i.e.*, Q is hydrogen or a cyclic moiety, Z contains a cyclic moiety. Applicants note that the Action indicates that the search encompassed compounds where A was as originally defined, except for phenyl or naphthyl. Thus, Applicants' amended claims reflect this scope for A. Further, R₂ contains an alkyl and/or cyclic moiety. As

such, Applicants request that the Office extend its search to encompass the full scope of the claims as currently amended.

The Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at (312) 913-0001 if the Examiner believes that a discussion would expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 24, 2008 By: /Steven J. Sarussi/
Steven J. Sarussi
Reg. No. 32,784

McDonnell Boehnen
Hulbert & Berghoff LLP
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 913-0001